

NINETY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 224

Introduced by Howard, 9

WHEREAS, William W. Kratville has contributed significantly to the railroad industry and the preservation of its history through his work as an internationally-recognized consultant, award-winning photographer, author, and media advisor, having authored or co-authored over twenty books of national, local, and historical interest and made temporary and permanent displays of his artwork available in public locations throughout the Midwest; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kratville served as a top assistant to four Omaha mayors and has testified before Congress on railroad-related issues; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kratville was a stringer photographer for United Press International in the 1950s whose most notable assignments included the Missouri River flood in Omaha in 1952 and a trip to Cuba before the Castro Revolution; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kratville was owner of the South Omaha Terminal, and owned and managed special Cornhusker football trains that provided transportation between Omaha and Lincoln for fans between the 1960s and 1970s; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kratville was founder and is the current owner of Auto-Liner Corporation, a private company that provides

publishing, photography, mechanical, and technical railroad consultation nationally and internationally and through Auto-Liner Corporation, was instrumental in the 1970 start-up of Amtrak and served as advisor and mechanical consultant to their fleet cars; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kratville is a private railroad car owner and has donated Pullman cars to Durham Western Heritage Museum for permanent display; supplied private cars for Presidential whistlestops and other celebrity and dignitary tours, including Presidents Jimmy Carter, Gerald Ford, George H. W. Bush, Secretary of State Colin Powell, and Presidential candidate George McGovern; and provided cars for entertainment tours including Disney's Mickey Mouse 50th Birthday, Wheel of Fortune, and others; and

WHEREAS, William W. Kratville has demonstrated commitment to the Omaha community throughout the years in many volunteer leadership roles, including serving as a founding and current member of the Omaha press club since the 1950s, a consultant for the design and construction of the original steam locomotive to the Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo in the 1960s, and a founding board member of the Durham Western Heritage Museum in 1971.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE NINETY-NINTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Nebraska Legislature recognizes and honors the achievements of William W. Kratville.

2. That the Clerk of the Legislature send a copy of this resolution to Mr. Kratville.